

## 12.10 Hausman's Specification Error Test

Hausman's specification error test<sup>45</sup> is a general and widely used test for the hypothesis of no misspecification in the model.

Let  $H_0$  denote the null hypothesis that there is no misspecification and let  $H_1$  denote the alternative hypothesis that there is a misspecification (of a particular type). For instance, if we consider the regression model

$$y = \beta x + u \quad (12.20)$$

in order to use the OLS procedure, we specify that  $x$  is independent of  $u$ . Thus the null and alternative hypotheses are:

$$H_0 : x \text{ and } u \text{ are independent}$$

$$H_1 : x \text{ and } u \text{ are not independent}$$

To implement Hausman's test, we have to construct two estimators  $\hat{\beta}_0$  and  $\hat{\beta}_1$ , which have the following properties:

- $\hat{\beta}_0$  is consistent and efficient under  $H_0$  but is not consistent under  $H_1$ .
- $\hat{\beta}_1$  is consistent under both  $H_0$  and  $H_1$  but is not efficient under  $H_0$ .

Then we consider the difference  $\hat{q} = \hat{\beta}_1 - \hat{\beta}_0$ . Hausman first shows that

$$\text{var}(\hat{q}) = V_1 - V_0$$

where  $V_1 = \text{var}(\hat{\beta}_1)$  and  $V_0 = \text{var}(\hat{\beta}_0)$ , both variances being computed under  $H_0$ . Let  $\hat{V}(\hat{q})$  be a consistent estimate of  $\text{var}(\hat{q})$ . Then we use

$$m = \frac{\hat{q}'\hat{q}}{\hat{V}(\hat{q})}$$

as a  $\chi^2$ -distribution with d.f. 1 to test  $H_0$  against  $H_1$ . This is an asymptotic test.

We have considered only a single parameter  $\beta$ . In the general case where  $\beta$  is a vector of  $k$  parameters,  $V_1$  and  $V_0$  will be matrices,  $\hat{\beta}_1$ ,  $\hat{\beta}_0$ , and  $\hat{q}$  will all be vectors, and the Hausman test statistic is

$$m = \hat{q}'[\hat{V}_1(\hat{q})]^{-1}\hat{q}$$

which has (asymptotically) a  $\chi^2$ -distribution with d.f.  $k$ .

Since a consideration of the  $k$ -parameter case involves vectors and matrices, we discuss the single-parameter case. The derivations in the  $k$ -parameter case are all similar.

To prove the result  $\text{var}(\hat{q}) = V_1 - V_0$ , we first have to prove the result that

$$\text{cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{q}) = 0$$

The proof proceeds as follows. Under  $H_0$ , both  $\hat{\beta}_0$  and  $\hat{\beta}_1$  are consistent estimates for  $\beta$ . Hence we get

$$\text{plim } \hat{q} = \text{plim } \hat{\beta}_1 - \text{plim } \hat{\beta}_0 = \beta - \beta = 0$$

Consider a new estimator for  $\beta$  defined by

$$\hat{d} = \hat{\beta}_0 + \lambda \hat{q}$$

where  $\lambda$  is any constant. Then  $\text{plim } \hat{d} = \beta$ . Thus  $\hat{d}$  is a consistent estimate of  $\beta$  for all values of  $\lambda$ .

$$V(\hat{d}) = V_0 + \lambda^2 \text{var}(\hat{q}) + 2\lambda \text{cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{q}) \geq V_0$$

Since  $\hat{\beta}_0$  is efficient. Thus

$$\lambda^2 \text{var}(\hat{q}) + 2\lambda \text{cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{q}) \geq 0 \quad (12.21)$$

for all values of  $\lambda$ . We will show that the relationship (12.21) can be satisfied for all values of  $\lambda$  only if  $\text{cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{q}) = 0$ .

Suppose that  $\text{cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{q}) > 0$ . Then by choosing  $\lambda$  negative and equal to  $-\text{cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{q})/\text{var}(\hat{q})$ , we can show that the relationship (12.21) is violated. Thus  $\text{cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{q})$  is not greater than zero.

Similarly, suppose that  $\text{cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{q}) < 0$ . Then by choosing  $\lambda$  positive and equal to  $-\text{cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{q})/\text{var}(\hat{q})$ , we show that the relationship (12.21) is violated. Thus  $\text{cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{q})$  cannot be greater than or less than zero. Hence we get  $\text{cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{q}) = 0$ .

Now since  $\hat{\beta}_1 = \hat{\beta}_0 + \hat{q}$  and  $\text{cov}(\hat{\beta}_0, \hat{q}) = 0$ , we get

$$\text{var}(\hat{\beta}_1) = \text{var}(\hat{\beta}_0) + \text{var}(\hat{q})$$

or

$$\text{var}(\hat{q}) = \text{var}(\hat{\beta}_1) - \text{var}(\hat{\beta}_0) = V_1 - V_0$$

which is the result on which Hausman's test is based.